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Release No.: 05102004-1

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WHAT DO WATER, POLICE CARS, AND HOSPITALS HAVE IN COMMON? Federal Funding--\$6.1 Million in Projects for Northeast Louisiana Communities

WINNSBORO, LA, May 10, 2004 – Residents of Winnsboro, Baskin, and Rayville have a lot to celebrate—clean water, a new police car, and hospital renovations. Congressman Rodney Alexander toured northeast Louisiana today with officials of USDA Rural Development to celebrate federal dollars coming home to rural communities in Louisiana. Today's events included:

Event	Project	USDA Rural Development Loan	USDA Rural Development Grant
Winnsboro, Louisiana, Groundbreaking	Water system improvements: Construction of five new water wells, a pumping station, and 12 miles of water main.	\$3,054,000	\$2,334,000
Baskin, Louisiana, Check Presentation	New police car, tractor, and mowing machine.		\$30,000
Richardson Medical Center, Rayville, Louisiana, Ribbon-Cutting	Renovations to hospital.	\$500,000	\$163,500

“Grant funds from USDA Rural Development make water system improvements, new police cars, and hospital renovations affordable for rural communities,” said Michael B. Taylor, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Louisiana. “Our goal at USDA Rural Development is to improve the quality of life in rural communities.”

During 2003, USDA Rural Development invested over \$224 million in Louisiana through community, business, and housing programs.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/>.

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